

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JERRY DESMOND

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 10, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of dedicated public servant, Captain Jerry Desmond, of Stonington, Connecticut. Mr. Desmond tragically passed at the all too young age of 63 on Friday, December 24, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in 1958 to James and Phillis Desmond in Weymouth, Massachusetts, Jerry attributed his strong work ethic to the model of his parents. From an early age, Jerry was instilled with the value of giving whatever task or challenge laid before him a full "100 percent." This principle guided him through life to the very end, even during his arduous battle with cancer which he did so with an infectious sense of optimism and the can-do attitude that defined his life.

At the age of 5, Jerry moved with his family to Stonington, putting him on a destined path to become an integral part of the local community. The Stonington Public Schools had such an immense impact on him that upon graduating he went on to serve as a substitute teacher and tutor beginning in 1976. This role existed as a further point of inspiration for Jerry, who attended Southern Connecticut State University and earned a Bachelor of Arts of Education.

Though upon graduating he was unable to immediately bridge to a career in teaching, Jerry remained undeterred in his ultimate mission to give back to the community that helped raise him. As someone who was able to appreciate the larger picture, Jerry used the athletic prowess he formed in high school and joined the local police force while simultaneously taking up the role of assistant coach for Stonington High School's football and track and field teams. In addition to football and track and field, Jerry coached the local woman's gymnastics team through to his final moments. A fierce optimist who believed in the value of hard work, Jerry was a perfect fit for the Stonington Public School's athletic programs. He appreciated working with the town's youth—passing onto them the same values taught by Jerry's parents before him—and viewed that work as one of the most rewarding parts of his career—especially enjoying his time as Stonington Police Department's Youth Officer.

Jerry would eventually return back to school and advance his background in education, graduating from the FBI Training Academy in Quantico. He also received a Masters in Homeland Security Leadership from the University of Connecticut. Aimed with a revitalized education, Jerry went on to teach as an adjunct professor at the nearby Mitchell College, in New London, Connecticut.

Of course, the pinnacle of Jerry's career was his remarkable 35 years of service to the

Stonington Police Department, 17 of those years as Captain of the Department. During that time, he helped oversee the department's marine unit and was involved with the dive team and acted as a boating instructor. He was instrumental in the awarding of a \$375,000 federal grant to the Department for a new police boat which went into service in 2014. That same year, Jerry retired from the department. Not content to accept a sedentary retirement, however, Jerry used his spare time to begin a new career with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as its Boating Safety and Education Representative, maintaining the role of teacher to the very end.

Madam Speaker, it is an incredible honor to represent constituents as loyal to the future of their community as Jerry. I had the privilege to interact with him as congressman and can attest to his diligent professionalism and down to earth personality which was so engaging. Jerry's life was defined by his love for teaching and giving to his community. His actions touched thousands of people, and he served as an excellent role model for Stonington's next generation. Though the gap left by his generous and caring nature could not hope to be filled in the Stonington community, we can find relief in the reality that those whose lives were enriched by Jerry's presence will not soon forget his example. To that end, I ask that my colleagues and this chamber join me in observing the loss of Jerry Desmond.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR CHRISTOPHER L. YOUNG

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 10, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of Command Sergeant Major Christopher L. Young. He has served in every leadership role within the non-commissioned officers ranks of the Mississippi Army National Guard, and it has been an honor to serve in this capacity with him. I am grateful to his dedication and many years of service to this nation and the state of Mississippi.

CSM Young enlisted into the Mississippi Army National Guard on May 23, 1988. He joined the 1-155th Infantry Regiment "Mississippi Rifles" in McComb, Mississippi. He was mobilized in 1990 in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. When he returned, CSM Young served in various leadership roles in the 155 Armored Brigade Combat Team. In 2001, he mobilized again in preparation for deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Stabilization Forces-10 rotation. There he served as the task force's Chief Protective Services Officer and the Scout Platoon Sergeant. He returned in April 2002 and was promoted to E-8. He also became the Chief Paralegal NCO in the 155.

In 2004, CSM Young was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III and the War on Terror. There he led a company of 134 Infantry soldiers who were responsible for counter-insurgency and combat operations against hostile insurgents in the Babil province. In 2010, he was promoted to Sergeant Major and would go on to become the Command Sergeant Major in 2012. In this role, he became the senior enlisted advisor to the Battalion Commander and was responsible for the well-being of the soldiers in his unit.

In 2019, CSM Young was promoted to the Mississippi Army National Guard State Command Sergeant Major position. In this role, he serves as both my Senior Enlisted Advisor and as the Command Sergeant Major over all Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers where he enacted positive reforms that will impact the MSARNG for years to come. I am grateful for CSM leadership, advisement, and friendship. CSM Young has set a precedent for future readers in the MSARNG and will leave a legacy of compassionate, selfless leadership.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DAVID GONZALES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 10, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I rise in remembrance of longtime Yuba Sutter native, David "Speedy" Gonzales, who left us on January 14, 2021. As a pillar in the community, he owned and helped operate the El Zape Restaurant with his wife Ana for over 75 years.

Born in Los Angeles, David moved to Wheatland, California at 7 years old. In 1952, his parents moved into a studio apartment above a Mexican restaurant on Garden Highway in Yuba City known as the El Zape Inn. Together as a family, he and his four siblings helped their parents start the El Zape that has now become one of the oldest family-owned restaurants in the region.

David loved and strived to support his growing community his entire life. He was a proud member of the Yuba City Rotary Club, Alliance for Hispanic Advancement, Yuba Sutter Chamber of Commerce, and various other community events. Throughout the years, David grew friendships with everyone he interacted with, whether it was his fellow Rotarians or all the friends that met at the Colusa Casino. David was preceded in death by his parents Tony and Eleanor Gonzales, Mary Cartago, Gloria Laswell, and Irene James. He is survived by his wife Ana and sons Robert and David (spouse Shannon), 6 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

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